The RSIO News

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A Message from the Chief of the RSDO

Greetings from the RSDO! Although this issue is shorter than previous issues, there is important news to announce. First, we welcome Dr. Farhad Tahmasebi/Code 544, who will serve as a Mission Integration Manager. Farhad will interface with our customers and help them satisfy their spacecraft requirements. Second, we recently completed two procurements (On-Ramps 7 and 14), adding three new vendors and spacecraft to the RSDO Catalog. In addition, we are in the midst of supporting the Landsat Data Continuity Mission's spacecraft procurement. Finally, Rapid III—the new and improved rapid spacecraft acquisition contract—is expected to arrive in 2008!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and comments regarding RSDO services or processes. Or, if you are in the neighborhood, feel free to pay us a visit.

Sincerely,

Greg Smith

RSDO Chief 301-286-1289 Gregory.F.Smith@nasa.gov

Staffing Updates

RSDO Welcomes Dr. Farhad Tahmasebi

In August 1983, Dr. Farhad Tahmasebi began his career at GSFC. Between August 1983 and January 1989, as an employee of InterCAD Corporation and Hughes/STX, he worked on developing the NASCAD (NASA Computer Aided Design) software package and robotic force/position control tools.

In January 1989, Farhad joined the GSFC civil servant team. As a Lead Mechanical Engineer and Lead Structural Analyst, he has worked on all phases of various Goddard projects such as FTS (Flight Telerobotic Servicer), SAT (Servicing Aid Tool), MAP (Microwave Anisotropy Probe), GLAST (Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope), and PhyLM (Physiology Lidar-Multispectral Mission).

Farhad has won both DDF (Director's Discretionary Fund) and IRAD (Internal Research and Development) funding competitions at GSFC.

Dr. Tahmasebi earned his B.S. (Summa Cum Laude), M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park in 1982, 1984, and 1993, respectively. He has taught both undergraduate and graduate level Mechanical Engineering courses at the same university. He holds two U.S. patents and has published more than twenty peer-reviewed journal/conference papers and technical reports.

Farhad has served as referee for the ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) Journal of Mechanical Design, the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Transactions on Robotics and Automation, the Journal of Robotic Systems, the IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics, the journal of Applied Mechanisms and Robotics, the ASME Mechanisms Conference, the ASME Design Automation Conference, and the World Automation Congress. He has served as session chairman at the National Applied Mechanisms and Robotics Conference, the World Automation Congress, and the JSME (Japanese Society of Mechanical Engineers)/ASME International Conference on Materials and Processing.

Bilingual in English and Persian, Farhad is married and is living with his wife in Silver Spring, Maryland. He enjoys swimming, jogging, skiing, Tai Chi, and Cuong Nhu (a Vietnamese style of martial arts).

Please join the entire RSDO team in welcoming Dr. Tahmasebi to the RSDO community!

CO's Corner

New Vendors Join RSDO Catalog

Since our last newsletter, the Rapid II catalog became a bit larger, with the addition of three spacecraft, each offered by a contractor new to the Rapid II catalog. In November 2006, RSDO awarded Alcatel Alenia Space (now Thales Alenia Space) in Cannes, France a contract for their Proteus bus, as a result of their submission under the RSDO On-Ramp #7. This spacecraft was the basis of the Jason 1 and Calipso missions, among others.

In March 2007, Space Systems Loral of Palo Alto, CA and Microsat Systems of Littleton, CO were each awarded RSDO contracts as a result of RSDO On-Ramp #14. Loral's core spacecraft is based on the company's "1300 series" of scalable geosynchronous spacecraft, which has been the basis for numerous Loral commercial communications missions, as well as some of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) weather and environmental monitoring missions. The Tacsat2 mission, launched in December, 2006, used MicroSat Systems' core spacecraft—the Road Runner.

We welcome these new contractors and their spacecraft to RSDO, and look forward to their involvement in future RSDO missions. With these three additions, the RSDO catalog now offers 18 core buses from eight vendors.

By Art Unger

For additional information, please contact Art at Arthur.M.Unger@nasa.gov

CO's Corner (continued)

Rapid III Coming Soon!

The ordering period on contracts for all current Rapid II catalog spacecraft will end on January 3, 2008. For some time now, the RSDO team has been working to lay the groundwork for the next phase of rapid spacecraft acquisition, which will most likely be called Rapid III. Our tentative plans call for the Rapid III Request for Offer (RFO) to be released in Fall 2007, with contract awards for the new 'stable' of catalog spacecraft in Spring 2008. Rapid III is expected to be very similar to Rapid II, and will include government and contractor lessons learned from the Rapid II efforts, plus changes to various acquisition regulations since the Rapid II contract development in 1999. We look forward to sharing some of these changes with industry and the RSDO user community in the near future. RSDO expects to release a draft RFO prior to the final RFO, allowing sufficient time for industry review and comment.

By Art Unger

For additional information, please contact Art at Arthur.M.Unger@nasa.gov

Small Disadvantaged Business Information

We encourage all our vendors to consider the use of small or disadvantaged businesses when enacting subcontracting agreements. For more information on official policies and goals concerning the integration of these companies into the NASA business environment, please visit the web site of NASA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) at http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codek/.

Current Business

LDCM Study Awarded

The RSDO awarded delivery orders for the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) Spacecraft Accommodation Study on April 30, 2007. Delivery orders for the four-month effort were awarded to Ball Aerospace Technologies Corporation, General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, Orbital Sciences Corporation, and Space Systems/Loral.

The participants will each study how their RSDO catalog "core bus" spacecraft can accommodate the mission-unique requirements of the LDCM Operational Land Imager (OLI) instrument, and provide a point design of the implementation. The studies will also address specific LDCM implementation and architecture issues, mission integration and test, and several other programmatic items.

A Request For Offer to implement the spacecraft is planned for release in Fall 2007 to select the contractor who will build the spacecraft, integrate the OLI, provide launch support, and oversee mission operations for the first ninety days after launch.

Operated by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Landsat satellites have provided continuous data from space about Earth's surface for over 30 years. LDCM will ensure the image records generated by previous Landsat missions continue into the next decade. The LDCM project is managed by Goddard's LDCM Project Office, Code 427. USGS's Center for Earth Resources and Observation Science is responsible for managing, developing, and implementing LDCM operations.

For additional information, please contact Bill Anselm/LDCM Observatory Manager, at William.C.Anselm@nasa.gov.